Acquisition Reform Success Story

AC-130U Gunship

System Program Director: Col Craw
Program Manager: LtCol Guindon
DAC: LtGen Eickmann
Contractor: Rockwell
Contractor PM: Mr Jake Volkert

Program Description

The Air Force is procuring 13 AC-130U gunships for the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) to supplement the AC-130H gunship fleet. The AC-130U is a long range attack aircraft that provides extensive loiter time and the ability to put surgical firepower on multiple targets simultaneously at night and in adverse weather. New C-130H aircraft are modified with an advanced sensor suite (all-weather strike radar, forward looking infrared, and all-light -level television), sensor-slewed side-firing weapons (25mm Gatling gun, 40mm cannon, and 105mm howitzer), aerial refueling capability, and advanced communication, navigation, and defensive systems. The gunship's unique capabilities enable it to support a variety of missions including escort, surveillance, armed reconnaissance, interdiction, close air support, air base defense, and counter-terrorism.

How Streamlining Made a Difference

The program office has refocused its efforts on major modifications, mission area requirements, and operations and support. Besides streamlining their own efforts, the office has shifted more of the workload to the prime contractor and other Air Force organizations. The program office is using a Statement of Objectives for all new proposalas, is eliminating all unnecessary material in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and is pursuing an electronic RFP process with Rockwell. Additionally, numerous test activites were transferred to the Special Operations Force's test unit at Hurlburt Field, FL and more quality control actions were assigned to the DPRO.

Measure	From	To
Rewrote AN/AAQ-26 specification	56 pages	13 pages
Reduced military specifications	46	7
Reduced Contract Data Requirements Lists	91	47
Oxygen system upgrade specification	-	2 pages

Bottom Line: Shifted more work to the prime contractor (doing it **better**) and minimized TDY through increased use of video-teleconferencing(doing it **cheaper**).